

Stirling ~~Kelms~~

15 May 1886

Dear Sir John.

I have been so busy lately that your letter has lain unanswered much longer than I had any idea of -

You ask why I use Palaoptera in preference to Archaeoptera. The fact is I had entirely forgotten that Gemitz had used this name at all. (i.e. Palaoptera). If you refer to Handbuch d. Palaeont. (Littel) II Band. 1. heft. p. 113, 1879 you will see that Schimper still uses Palaoptera. but the note appended is evidently the result of your correspondence. But without doubt Schimper has taken a liberty with Gemitz's

genus, altogether unworkable  
& Palaeopterus cannot with  
propriety be applied as I have  
done - I have simply been  
entrapped into this error &  
in future will use Archaeoptera

Though Schimper said he  
would, I am not aware that  
he ever adopted Archaeoptera  
as a genus -

Although my paper on  
spores was read last month,  
I am sorry to say I am not  
finished yet, for I still have  
a few sketches to make &  
a few pages of the MS. to  
write out - whenever I  
get a proof, you shall  
have one sent <sup>to you</sup> ~~at once~~ -

I am looking forward  
to seeing you in Britain

this summer - I am not  
a member of the British  
Association, but intend to join  
this year - so hope to see  
you at Birmingham if  
nowhere else -

You will not however be  
in England without coming to  
Scotland - Do you think  
you could possibly arrange  
to pay Stronach a visit. You  
will find us in a very  
quiet way, but it would  
give me very great pleasure  
if you could spend at  
least one night with me &  
to over my collection of fossil  
plants - I hope <sup>however</sup> you will  
be able to spend more than  
one night as I am sure  
the whole neighbourhood  
would interest you -

I am much obliged to you  
for the trouble you are taking  
in trying to get me specimens  
of the fossils I wish. It is  
only workers in palaeontology  
that know the value of such  
specimens for comparison -

With kindest regards &  
hoping that you will not  
forget to arrange to pay  
me a visit -

Yours truly  
W. D. D. W. D. D.

P.S. Do you know if any  
relative of yours married  
a Wm. Kidston who lived  
in Halifax, Nova Scotia?

W.D.D.

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